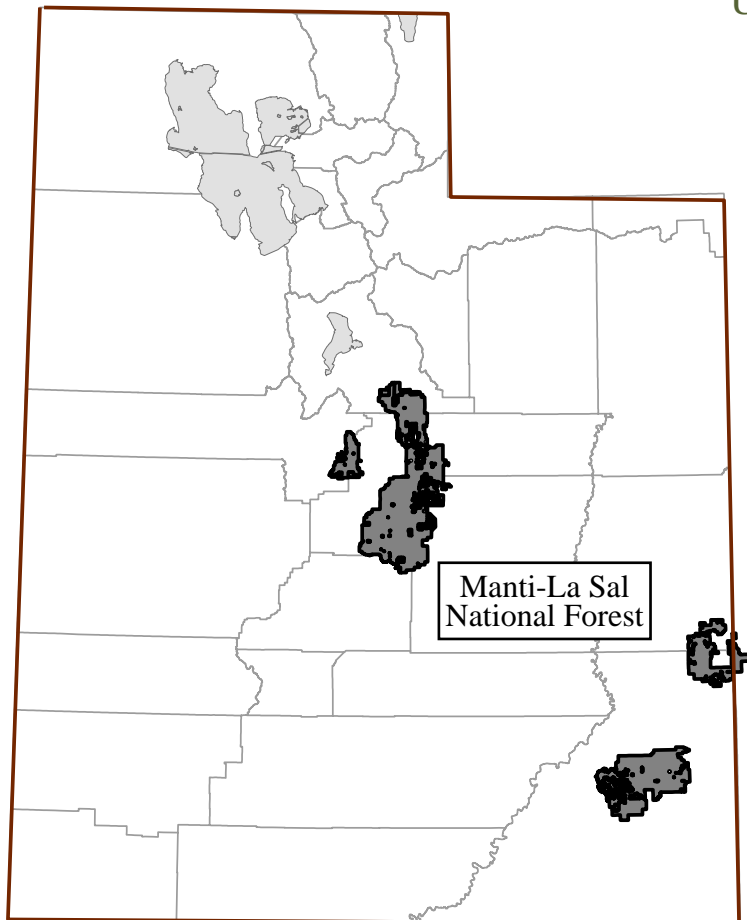


Manti-La Sal National Forest Profile

Prepared for the:
Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment

Prepared by:
Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
with assistance from:
Utah State University College of Natural Resources
Utah Division of Indian Affairs



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MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST OVERVIEW



Forest Area

1,413,111 acres (2,085 mi²)

3% wilderness

Forest Coverage

45% forested-timberland

26% forested-woodland

28% non-forested

Forest type (in forested areas)

26%—Pinyon/Juniper

17%—Aspen

12%—Spruce-fir

11%—Ponderosa Pine

8%—Douglas fir

7%—Gambel oak

6%—White-fir

6%—Engelmann Spruce

7%—Other

source: Forest Resources of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, 1998

Manti-La Sal National Forest is combination of two distant and distinct forested areas. The Manti division lies along the spine of the Wasatch Plateau in central Utah and the La Sal division that consists of two separate stretches of forest, both appearing as a lone mountain ranges rising above the canyons and deserts of southeastern Utah. The Manti is rich with minerals and serves as the primary watershed for towns lining the east and west sides of the mountain. The entire plateau is a favorite for hunters and recreation enthusiasts from nearby towns and the Wasatch Front. The La Sal sections are forested islands unto themselves, biologically and geographically unique from their desert context, which is primarily owned by the BLM. This creates a strong need for interagency planning and management. While private lands and population centers are at some distance from the forest, the lands in the La Sal division are a treasured recreation retreat from the heat of the surrounding desert for locals. Evidence of thousands of years of occupation by both native peoples and early pioneers can be found in ruins, rock-art, and abandoned working landscapes. The Forest has one designated wilderness, Dark Canyon, near Blanding.

National Forests are managed to serve a diversity of stakeholders, responding to local, state, national, and international interests and a variety of users from recreation to agriculture to industry. Mining is a large industry on the Manti division, as is recreation, ATV use, hunting, and fishing. The La Sals are used year round for hiking, biking, ATV use, as well as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

National Forests must comply with numerous federal mandates and federal laws, as well as coordinate with other agencies, and consider state and local plans and regulations. (*see 2D—Decision-Making Linkages*). Actions are guided by numerous plans, policies and guidelines which can be categorized into roughly two tiers of planning (*see 4C—Forest Planning*). At the highest level is the Forest Plan, which sets the overall goals for the entire forest and sets general rules for what can and can't be done on the forest. At the more detailed level, project

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST OVERVIEW

Manti-La Sal NF Ownership

38.1% of Sanpete County
 8.0% of San Juan County
 7.4% of Emery County
 6.8% of Utah County
 3.2% of Carbon County
 2.4% of Grand County
 2.4% of Sevier County
 1.6 % of Montrose County, CO
 0.8 % of Juab County
 0.7 % of Mesa County, CO

specific plans are created to determine the exact course of action. Examples of recent plans and reports completed by Manti-La Sal National Forest are listed below. More plans and information can be found on the internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/> .

Visitor Use Monitoring Survey 2003
Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report, 2003
Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2001
Monticello and Blanding Municipal Improvements Project, Draft EIS, 2003
Nizhoni Fire Salvage Environmental Assessment, 2003